



Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

One Natural Resources Way · Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2011

CONTACTS: Chris McCloud
(217) 785-0075
Januari Smith
(217) 558-1544

Drawings for Rock/Pecatonica River Commercial Fishing Opportunities Set for February 17

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will hold its annual drawing for the commercial removal of rough fish on the Rock/Pecatonica River at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at the IDNR regional office, located at 2317 E. Lincolnway in Sterling.

Any commercial fisherman drawn may only harvest specific types of rough fish within the Rock/Pecatonica Rivers with the overall goal of improving the health of the fishery in these areas.

Commercial fishing for these rough species of fish has been occurring on the Rock River prior to the 1950s. The IDNR holds drawings annually for the commercial removal of these fishes to help enhance sport fish populations on the Rock River. ‘Rough’ fishes such as carp and buffalo compete directly with sport fish for food resources and spawning habitat. During the last 10 years more than two million pounds of rough fish have been harvested commercially from the Rock River.

Species that may be harvested are carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, suckers, carp suckers, gar, bowfin, grass carp, Asian carp and gizzard shad. Commercial fishermen drawn are eligible to fish for these specific species from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. All other fish species including catfish and bullheads must be released immediately.

Any licensed commercial fisherman with a minimum of 15 hoop nets or three 100-yard trammel nets with a bar mesh size of 2¾ inch or larger who has not been found guilty of a Fish and Aquatic Life Code or Fish Administrative Rules violation within the past 12 months, and can post a \$300 bond, is eligible for the drawing. Fishermen must be in attendance during the drawing and are awarded on a first draw-first choice basis.